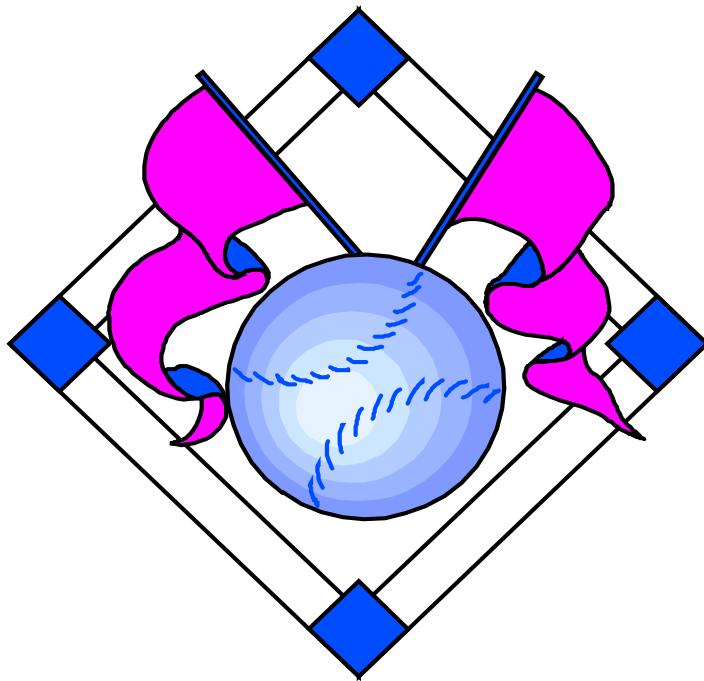


Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department



2010 MEN'S SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL



***LOCAL RULES
AND BY-LAWS***

**Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department
2010 Men's Slow Pitch Softball Local Rules and By-Laws**

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MEN'S SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL 2010

PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for men ages 18 and older to form teams and participate in organized league play in accordance with the Local Rules and By-Laws outlined herein.

ORGANIZATIONAL SET UP AND DUTIES

1. The League Director is responsible for scheduling all leagues. The Athletic Director and League Director shall be the chief supervisors of all teams in the Men's program and reserves the right to suspend any manager, coach, player or spectator who breaks any of the Department Policies as stated in the By-Laws. All protests will be handled by the League Director. If a player or team appeals a ruling from the League Director, the Board of Directors will hear the appeal for a final ruling.
2. The Board of Directors will be composed of one team manager from each league selected by the League Director. Board members will serve for a one-season term. A new board will be selected at the beginning of each season. The Board of Directors' responsibility shall include:
 - a. Handling minor problems within the league
 - b. Brining league problems or concerns to the attention of the League Director
 - c. Hearing and ruling on all appeals
 - d. Helping to settle any other disputes that have been brought to the Board of Directors or the League Director

The Board of Directors may hold a monthly meeting to discuss any problems or bring up new suggestions that would improve the Women's Slow Pitch Softball program.

TEAMS, LEAGUES AND DIVISIONS

Teams will be formed into leagues and placed in the following divisions:

Open – Any group of individuals that wish to form a team.

Church – All teams in this division must be sponsored by a church. The sponsoring church decides who plays on the team. Players do not have to be members of the church.

Teams may request a certain league, playing days etc. Final league assignments will be made by the League Director in an effort to establish balanced leagues. Field locations will be based on league level (A, B or C), field size and availability. THE FORMATION OF LEAGUES AND DIVISIONS WILL DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF TEAMS REGISTERED. A low number of teams registered will result with all teams playing in the same league.

ENTRY FEES

The entry fee for the 2010 season is \$400.00 for each team inside Guilford County and \$845.00 for each team outside of Guilford County. Entry fees cover the cost of umpires, NSA team registration, awards and play-off games. No entry fees will be refunded after the schedules have been made.

GAME SCHEDULES

The official schedule will come from the League Director's office. Games will be played as scheduled. The League Director reserves the right to make changes in the schedule in exceptional cases. Game times will be set up as follows

- For three (3) games per night, games will be played at 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00 pm
- For four (4) games per night, games will be played at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 pm

Game schedules and regular season standings will be updated and posted on the P& R Athletics Division website at the following web address:

greensboro-nc.gov/departments/parks/program/athletics/adultsports

GAME TIME LIMIT

All games will have a time limit of 55 minutes. No new innings will start after the 55 minutes of play. **For the purpose of clarification of the time limit rule, a new inning begins as soon as the third out is made by the home team.**

Games will consist of at least seven (7) innings except for the following conditions:

1. If the game is halted by rain
2. The 10-run rule – if the home team has a 10-run lead after 4½ innings or the visiting team after 5 innings, the game will count as a complete game. The home team will always have the last bat if they are behind.
3. The 20-run rule – The game will end when either team has a 20-run lead after 2½ (home team) or 3 (visiting team) complete innings. The home team will always have the last bat if they are behind.
4. By time limit - the time expires (after 55 minutes)

At all game sites, the umpire's watch will be the official timepiece. Coaches should check with the umpire before taking the field in order to know the correct amount of playing time.

GAME BALLS

All teams are responsible for furnishing their own balls. The following NSA approved ball must have the NSA logo:

- **12-inch, 44 C.O.R., 400 Compression ball (2010 Season)**

The NSA ball can be identified with THE official NSA logo that contains the maximum C.O.R. and compression standards. All balls are subject to umpire's approval.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. Teams must have the same colored shirts with store-bought numbers on the back. **Legal jersey numbers are (1-99). You can have either 0 or 00 but not both. Shirts that have fractions, decimals, etc. for numbers will not be allowed.**
2. Numbers made with tape, pen, magic markers, etc., are not legal.
3. Numbers cannot be duplicated. If duplicated numbers exist, only one of the players will be eligible to play.
4. Players cannot play if her shirt does not have a number or if her shirt is an odd color.
5. All equipment must meet NSA requirements and is subject to the umpire's approval.

Because of health reasons, all managers will be required to have an extra shirt on site. If a player gets blood on her shirt due to her activity, that player will be allowed to change shirts and record a new number. Also, each player is requested to bring an extra pair of pants or shorts to change into in case blood gets on their pants. Umpires will not allow a player into the game until that player changes clothes.

PLAYING RULES

The current NSA Softball Rules shall be used with the following exceptions:

1. There will be a five (5) home run limit for all regular season and post-season tournament games. After five (5) home runs, any ball hit over the fence is called out. Inside the park home runs or a ball tipped over the fence by a fielder does not count toward the home run limit.
2. Teams may start the game with nine (9) players. If and when the 10th player arrives, she must go into the 10th spot in the batting order. She must enter the game immediately in accordance with the NSA substitution rules. Once a team has more than nine (9) players, it must continue to field a legal team in accordance with NSA rules of forfeit.
3. Each batter will assume a one ball, one strike count when she steps into the batter's box.
4. **A batter with a two (2) strike count will be declared out hitting a third strike foul ball. Players may not advance on dead ball foul.**
5. Although jewelry is not recommended, players may wear flat band rings at your discretion. **Large diamond rings that are raised are not recommended. Any jewelry that dangles such as ear rings are prohibited. Necklaces must stay inside the shirt if worn.**
6. **Metal spikes or cleats are illegal.** If it is discovered during the game that an offensive or defensive player is wearing metal cleats, the player is ejected. If the player is an offensive player and has entered the batter's box or is on the base, an out will be called and any baserunner(s) must return to the last base occupied at the time of the pitch. If the offending player is discovered after the player was called out, any baserunner(s) must return to the last base occupied at the time of the pitch. The defense will keep any out(s) earned on the last play prior to the discovery of the player wearing metal cleats. The defensive player wearing metal cleats will be ejected.
7. The pitcher should look at each ball to make sure it is legal before pitching. A player will be called out if an illegal ball is pitched. A discovered illegal ball before it is pitched may be switched without penalty.
8. **Illegal equipment:** By taking the field (no matter if a pre-game conference with the team manager/coach was held or not; or if an equipment check was performed or not) the coach/team manager automatically verifies that their team is legally and properly equipped. Any player hitting with or using tampered or altered equipment assumes the liability of that piece of equipment (knowingly or not knowingly) while playing.
Any ball or bat that inflicts an injury to another player while participating in a scrimmage or game will be confiscated by the officiating crew or P&R staff and sent to the NSA office for review. Failure to surrender equipment when asked will result in suspension for (5) years of all athletic events.
Bats and balls that are surrendered will be sent for inspection to the NSA office. The NSA office will then send the equipment to the Manufacturer for a final determination on whether it has been altered or he/she can accept an immediate two year suspension without an appeal.
The Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department will follow the guidelines for suspensions of illegal or altered equipment in correspondence with NSA rules. Equipment that has proven to be altered may suspend a first time offender no less than (2) years and no more than five. Second time offenders in reference to use of illegal equipment will be suspended for life.

Review the following sections in the NSA Softball Official Rule Book in reference to proper equipment (page 15-18) for further information.

RAIN-OUT POLICY

When rain sets in prior to 5:00 pm, the decision to play or postpone games will be made by the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Athletics Office. A message will be put on the Game Cancellation Phone Line (**373-2366**) if games will not be played that night. When it rains after 5:00 pm, the decision whether or not to play will be made by the umpires after they arrive at the field.

If the first game is delayed from starting on time, a maximum 30-minute Rain Delay will go into effect. If the game can be started before the 30 minute Rain Delay expires, then the game will start at that point. It will end in accordance with the Time Limit Rule, as if it had started at the scheduled time. If the game cannot be started before the 30-minute Rain Delay expires, then the first game is canceled.

The umpires will remain at the field until expiration of the 55-minute time Limit for the first game. They will then make a decision concerning the second game. If conditions warrant cancellation of the second game, then all remaining games for the night are canceled.

If the first game is played and foul weather prevents the second game from starting, the Rain Delay will again go into effect. At the end of the 30 minutes, a decision will be made concerning the second game. The umpires will remain at the field until the expiration of the time limit for the second game. They will then make a decision on the third game. If the third game cannot be played, then any remaining games are canceled. If the third game is played, the same procedure will be followed if a fourth game is scheduled.

Rained out games will be made up at the end of the season. Be prepared to play on any night to make up games. Be prepared to play in the rain. IF THERE ARE AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF RAINED OUT GAMES, MAKE UP GAMES WILL NOT BE SCHEDULED UNLESS THE GAMES DETERMINE THE FIRST AND SECOND PLACE LEAGUE STANDINGS.

SHORTENED GAME

Any game interrupted, halted, or delayed due to injury, rain or dangerous weather conditions will count as a complete game if the Home team has the lead after 4 ½ innings or if the Visiting team has the lead after 5 innings. If the Visiting team has scored more runs than the Home team in the 6th or 7th innings and the Home team has not had the opportunity to complete its turn at bat, the game reverts back to the score at the end of the last complete inning. If the score was tied, the game stands as a tied game. If the minimum number of innings has not been played, the game will be a suspended game, and will be completed at a later date from the point of interruption if needed to determine the league championship. Suspended games will not be counted in team won-lost records. Umpires are responsible for reporting suspended games so that they can be properly recorded.

TIE GAMES

Extra innings will be played to break a tie if there is time remaining in the 55-minute time limit. The number of extra innings played will be determined by the time limit. Games that end in a tie after the 55-minute time limit will remain tie games and will not be played off.

FORFEITS

1. GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME. No umpire will be allowed to forfeit a game where player eligibility is in questions.
2. Forfeitures will be declared for:

- a. Not having nine (9) players on the field ready to play by game time.
- b. Not being able to continue to field the legal number of players once the game begins. If a team is reduced to less than the legal number of players required by rule due to injury, the last legal player removed from the game may return to the game in the injured player's position. The injured player cannot return to the game.
- c. Any reason where the umpire removes a player or players from the game and they refuse to leave the area (playing field and surrounding area, bleachers and concession stand). The removed player or players must be "out of sight and sound" of the playing field.
- d. Any time a team's behavior becomes detrimental to the normal progress and conclusion of the game.
- e. Failure to submit team line-up cards to the umpire at the home plate meeting.

UMPIRE NO SHOW

In case an umpire does not arrive for the starting time of a game, it will be the team's manager responsibility to:

1. Report the situation to the concession stand operator, who will contact the proper officials.
2. Agree on a person to umpire the game until an umpire arrives.

All games are official. Games that are not played will be considered a double forfeit. All games will be allowed 55 minutes from the scheduled starting time. EXAMPLE: if a game begins at 6:30 pm, the game time will be completed at 7:25 pm.

PROTESTS

1. No protest will be considered if it is based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of an umpire. Examples of situations which will not be considered are:
 - a. Balls and strikes; pitches, legal or illegal.
 - b. Safe and out calls.
 - c. Batted Ball, fair or foul.
 - d. Runner left too soon or missed base.
 - e. Ball caught or trapped.
 - f. Infield fly, interference or obstruction.
 - g. Fitness of field for play.
 - h. Any other matter upon which the umpire's decision is based on his/her judgment.
2. Protests that will be considered concern the following:
 - a. Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
 - b. Failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
 - c. Failure of an umpire to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.
 - d. Player eligibility.
 - e. **Use of an illegal bat.**
3. All protests must be lodged BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH. Exception: Player Eligibility.
 - a. The team manager notifies the umpire that the game is being played under protest. The umpire, in turn, will notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper.
 - b. All interested parties should take notice of the conditions surrounding the making of the decision, which will aid in the correct determination of the issue.
 - c. **On a bat protest the bat must be given to the umpire and placed in the concession stand and either Don Tilley or Clayton Nance needs to be notified.**
 - d. **Please refer to the NSA rule book Rule 3 – Equipment – NSA Altered Bat and Altered Ball Procedures.**

4. No protest can be filed once the game is completed and both teams have left the playing field. **EXCEPTION: Player Eligibility.**
5. The protest must be written and submitted, with a \$20.00 Protest Fee, to the League Director by 5:00 pm on the next workday following the game in question. The written protest should contain the following information:
 - a. Day, date, time and location of game.
 - b. Teams involved.
 - c. The rule and section of the NSA Rules or Local Rules under which the protest is made.
 - d. The decision and conditions surrounding the decision.
 - e. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.
6. **The fee for protesting an illegal bat will be \$75.00 and must be written and submitted to the League Director by 5:00 pm on the next workday.**
7. **If the protest is ruled valid, the fee will be returned and the game replayed from the point of protest if the protest was for rule misinterpretation. If the protest was a bat protest the NSA Rule 3 will be our guidelines. If the protest is ruled invalid, the fee is not refunded and the game stands as completed.**
8. Any appeal of the protest ruling must be submitted in writing to the League Director within two (2) working days of the ruling with a non-refundable \$10.00 Appeal Fee.
9. The Board of Directors will hear the appeal. The Board's decision will be final.
10. A protest concerning Player Eligibility shall be handled in the same manner. The protest concerning Player Eligibility can be filed at any time during the season.

COMPLAINTS

Any manager or umpire who feels that he or she does not have a protest but would like to file a letter of complaint stating causes and circumstances involving such incidents must do so within 24 hours after the occurrence. The League Director will handle all complaints and see that an investigation is made concerning the complaints. A report will be made within seven (7) working days after the League Director receives such complaints and completes the investigation. There will not be a charge for writing a letter of complaint. Under no circumstances should a letter be written because of personality differences.

PLAYER ROSTERS

1. It shall be a violation for any member of any team to sign a roster with more than one team in the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Women's Slow Pitch Softball program.
 - a. Each player must sign fill out the Medical Form before practicing or playing. No nicknames shall be used.
 - b. Each team manager is responsible for correct information on team roster.
2. A maximum of 20 players may be signed to a team.
3. **Rosters must be turned in by the Friday before the first games at the Athletics Office by 5pm.**
 - a. Last day to add to rosters is the second Friday of the season by 5pm using a medical form from player. There will not be any add-ons after this date.
 - b. Any add-ons must be pre-approved by the League Director.

4. Players may be added to rosters only for the following reason:
 - a. For any injury which will incapacitate a player for the remainder of the season.
 - b. For a player drafted into military service or moves out of town.
 - c. For a player that must spend the remainder of the playing season in Reserve Camp.
 - d. For a player that quits a team by personal choice.
 - e. For a player that has been moved to a different working shift.

A request to add a player will be answered by 5:00 pm of the day that the request was received or by 12:00 noon of the next working day.

ROSTER SUSPENSIONS

1. Any coach signing a medical form for a player will be suspended for one (1) year.
2. Any player playing under an assumed name will be suspended for one (1) year.
3. Any player who signs a roster with two teams will be suspended for one (1) year and the first and second team she signed with will lose all games the player participated in.
4. Any manager who knowingly plays an illegal player or players will be suspended for one (1) year.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

No player will be allowed to play on more than one (1) team in the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department Men's Slow Pitch Softball Program that plays Monday – Thursday. Any player playing in the Monday-Thursday league may play in the Friday league. Any player released from a team will not be eligible to play for another team until he is approved by the League Director. After being approved, he may sign the new team's roster in the League Director's office and take a copy of the release form to the new team manager. Any player or team that competes in an inter-city program not sponsored by the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department will be eligible to play in the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Men's Slow Pitch Softball Program.

RELEASE AGREEMENT

A release agreement can only be obtained from a team manager and must be submitted on a Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department Player Release Form. Any player who quits a team will not be eligible for membership on another team until a release is signed by the team manager and filed in the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Athletics office. There will be a cost of \$10.00 for each release. Releases must be signed by the player and the manager in the Athletics' Office.

LINE-UP CARDS

All teams must turn in a line-up card to the umpires at the home plate meeting. Line-up cards must contain the following:

1. The player's first name or initial, last name, defensive position, and shirt number. All names should be in the correct batting order. NO NICKNAMES WILL BE USED ON LINE-UP CARDS.
2. Substitutions must be listed on the back of the line-up card. Any substitute not listed on the line-up card will not be allowed to play. The substitute's number can be added when she arrives.

CONDUCT

The Parks and Recreation Department strives to encourage good, clean competition and sportsmanship. All teams are expected to cooperate with umpires, manager and Parks and Recreation personal.

The following will not be allowed at any ball field.

1. Drinking of alcoholic beverages or use of illegal drugs by any player, coach, spectator, or sponsor.
2. Abusive profanity.
3. Fighting.
4. Managers or players to confront or threaten any umpire working their game.
5. Smoking or chewing tobacco products use on the playing field or dugouts at any time.
6. Pets or animals are not allowed at the playing fields at anytime. Player penalty: Suspended for that game immediately and next game. Visitors will be asked to remove their pet from the property. They may no longer place the pet in a car.
7. Players, coaches or spectators approaching umpires in a negative manner.
8. Excessive or abusive arguing with umpires on a judgment call, or in any manner reflecting upon the integrity of the umpires.
9. Issuing a verbal threat to inflict bodily harm with a piece of equipment or bodily parts to anyone attending a game or participating in a game.

Any player ejected from the game will automatically be suspended for the next scheduled game. This ruling will affect the regular season games and tournament games.

SUSPENSION POLICY

The Suspension Policy is designed to define major and minor suspension periods and to outline the offenses for which one may be suspended from any or all activities programmed by Parks and Recreation Athletics.

In order to ensure the safety and rights of program participants, coaches, managers, players, officials, and Parks and Recreation Staff, the following Suspension Policy has been initiated for all sports programs.

Suspension in the policy is defined as disciplinary action taken by the Parks and Recreation Department toward an individual(s) or team that violates the Program Rules and By-Law and is written up by officials or Parks and Recreation Staff. The action prohibits the offender(s) from participating in activities in any way except as a spectator for a designated period of time or number of games.

There are two (2) types of Suspension: Minor and Major

A **Minor Suspension** is a short-term suspension in a given sport. Suspension of minor violations will be two (2) games in all sports except Youth Football and the suspension for Youth football will be one (1) game. Following are examples of minor violations. This list is not inclusive of all violations:

1. Negatively approaching an official before, during or after a game.

2. Failure to leave the field or facility immediately after ejection.

A **Major Suspension** is a long-term suspension that will carry over to all sports offered by Greensboro Parks and Recreation Athletics for a specific period of time. Minimum suspension for major violations will be one (1) year.

The following are examples of major violations. This list is not inclusive of all violations. Examples of major violations include:

1. Signing more than one team roster and illegally playing for a team.
2. Playing under an assumed name.
3. Attempting to inflict bodily harm with any piece of equipment and/or assaulting Officials, players, or Parks and Recreation employees.
4. Using an illegal piece of equipment such as (tampered bat or ball). ***(Five year suspension)***
5. Fighting.
6. Ejected for throwing a bat. Penalty is a five (5) game suspension.

Two minor violations in a given sport may be considered a major violation and warrant a major suspension. The Parks and Recreation Athletic Staff will determine the severity of the violation and notify offender(s) in writing as to why, length and period of suspension.

The offender or offenders will have 48 hours to appeal the suspension. This appeal must be in writing and addressed to the League Director. The appeal will be made to the Board of Directors for that sport and the decision of the Board will be final. There will be a non-refundable \$10.00 filing fee which must accompany the appeal.

SUSPENSION DUE TO ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

On July 16, 2000, the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Staff and Softball Task Force implemented a policy for any persons found participating in alcohol consumption at the softball fields and in the parking lots.

Alcohol consumption at softball fields will not be tolerated. The following rules will be implemented.

1. Suspension will occur:
 - a. if persons are observed drinking alcohol or are under the influence of alcohol by a Parks and Recreation staff person, softball official, Softball Task Force member or concession stand operators.
 - b. If the player's number and the name of the team are reported and submitted to the League Director and/or the Athletic Director for drinking or being under the influence of alcohol.
2. Suspensions will be carried out as follows for each individual who is reported:
 - First Offense – the individual will serve a two (2) game suspension
 - Second Offense – the individual will serve a five (5) game suspension
 - Third Offense – the individual will serve an indefinite suspension

LEAGUE PLAYOFFS & TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

At the conclusion of the regular season play, all teams will compete in a post-season tournament. Groupings will be determined by league divisions and each team's won/loss record at the time brackets are drawn. The team with the best regular season win/loss record in each division will be given a bye. Byes will depend on the number of teams in each respective bracket. All other teams will be seeded according to their regular season win/loss record.

Any team that forfeits four (4) games during league play will not be included in the playoffs. Teams will receive notification from the League Director's office when they have forfeited their third game.

AWARDS

Regular season first and second place teams will receive team trophies. Team and individual plaques will be given to the post-season tournament champion. Team plaques will be given to post-season tournament runners-up.

Emergency Response Plan:

Statement of Purpose – Though we attempt to avoid accidents and emergencies by adequate planning and training, as well as maintaining safe facilities and equipment, these situations will inevitably still occur. For that reason, the entire leadership who is involved in all aspects of Athletics programming including professional staff, part-time employees, officials and volunteers must have a clear understanding and follow this emergency response plan.

Prevention

- All participants must provide completed Medical History form along with roster before any participating including scrimmages and games.
- It is highly recommended that all participants have a pre participation physical examination with a follow-up examination prior to each season.
- All participants must provide signed consent indicating that they (or parents of underage) assume all risk for accidental injury.
- Coaches and officials must use common sense when dealing with thunder and lightning and other severe storm situations.
- Coaches must have a stocked first aid kit at every practice and game. A first aid kit will be provided at all indoor game locations and at sites with concession areas.
- Coaches first aid kits must carry a copy of medical history cards for each player listing contact persons to be called in case of an emergency.
- If a player is injured during a game, only the Athletics Staff, softball officials and the coaches will be allowed on the playing field with the injured player. Persons who are available with any type of first aid training (first responder, athletic trainer, EMT, nurse or doctor) will be allowed to help the injured person. All other players must go to another area of the playing field or to the dugout or bench. Spectators will not be allowed on the playing field at anytime during the game.
- Anyone administering first aid, especially in dealing with blood and/or other bodily fluids must wear protective gloves and any other personal protective equipment that is available.
- Blank accident forms must be kept with each first aid kit. A form must be completed by field and gym supervisors, and coaches at the scene for every major emergency and/or accident.

- A telephone must ALWAYS be available at each game site. Coaches are responsible for emergency communications at practices. It is highly recommended that all concession stand operators keep a cell phone on site in order to make calls during emergency situations. The Athletics staff will insure that concession areas are open during games.

In Case of Emergency

For major emergencies, follow ALL steps.

*For minor emergencies, follow the **BOLD** items ONLY.*

- **Assess the injury.**
- Activate the medical response plan / emergency action plan.
- Send a "phone runner" to call emergency medical personnel and to call or locate the injured person's parents if under age.
- **Administer basic first aid.**
- Send another person to direct the arriving emergency medical personnel.
- Prepare the injured person to be transported. **DO NOT MOVE THE INJURED PERSON UNTIL EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL ARRIVE OR IF THE SCENE BECOMES UNSAFE.**
- Designate someone to go to the hospital with the injured person if parents, spouse or relatives are not available.
- **Field and gym supervisors, coaches or staff on duty must interview witnesses and fill out an Accident Report. This report is due in the Athletics Director's office within 24 hours of the emergency or accident.**

Emergency Phone Number (for Rescue, Fire or Police) - Dial 911

Note: The Athletics Section of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department has compiled, distributed, and mandated this information to all of the leadership involved in our athletics programming. Each person should be aware that failure to adhere to the information contained herein may leave them open to litigious situations. Signatures that show compliance to this plan have been collected on a separate sheet.

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